

King Carlos arrives in Egypt

CAIRO, March 18 (AFP). — King Juan Carlos of Spain and Queen Sofia will arrive here tomorrow for a five-day official visit to Egypt. The visit marks the Spanish monarch's first contact with the Middle East since he ascended to the throne after Gen. Franco's death in November 1975. President Anwar Sadat will be host at a dinner in honour of the Spanish sovereign at the Abdine Palace on Saturday. The two heads of state will meet for talks on Sunday. Sunday afternoon and Monday and Tuesday will be devoted to sight seeing. The royal couple will visit Ismailia, on the Suez Canal, and will also tour the ancient monuments in the upper Nile valley. The royal couple will leave on Wednesday for a visit to Jordan at His Majesty King Hussein's invitation.

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Carter meets PLO aide at reception

UNITED NATIONS, March 18

President Jimmy Carter, who was embroiled in controversy for his remarks about a Jewish homeland, last night shook hands with a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

It was the first ever meeting between a PLO official and the president took place at a reception here.

Mr. Carter had addressed a packed audience of delegates at the main assembly hall, after shaking hands with an Arab League official, the president's observer at the United Nations, Mr. Carter was seen shaking hands with Mr. Abdul Rahman, the PLO representative.

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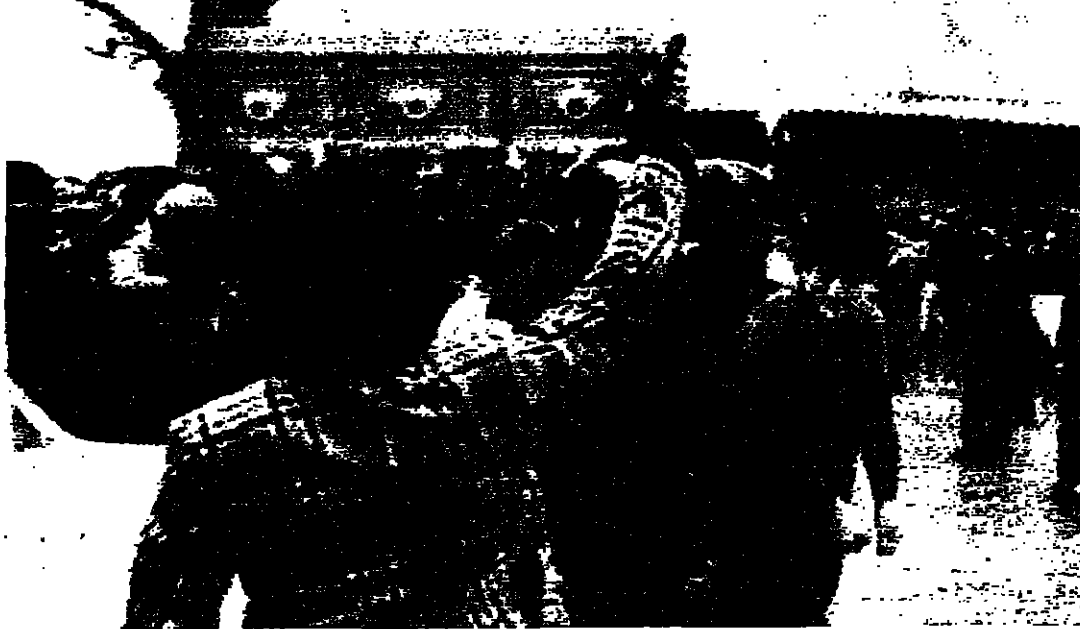
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FAREWELL -- In traditional Lebanese way, a gun man fires his pistol into the air while leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt's body is carried to the burial ground near Mukhtara Thursday. Another militiaman fires his AK47 assault rifle (right). (AP wirephoto).

PLO factions hammer out a "fighting, talking" platform

CAIRO, March 18 (R).

— Palestinian doves and hawks opposed to a political settlement of the Middle East conflict today appeared to be nearing a compromise on a platform of "fighting and talking."

The opposing sides today discussed two political statements drafted after six days of heated debate at the Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting aimed at narrowing the gap between moderates and hard-liners.

Delegates predicted that the final draft would reflect a tougher stand on how to solve the conflict in the volatile Middle

East than the 10-point programme adopted at the last meeting of the council three years ago.

The rival drafts were produced by the hard-line Rejection Front of commando groups and the more moderate Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and Fatah.

Fatah's Cairo representative, Mr. Rebbi Awwad, told a press conference here that "you can expect a more consolidated and tougher programme -- in response to the inflexible United States and Israeli attitude."

Qualified sources said that the moderates' draft -- to which

the Rejection Front was likely to agree after another round of heated debate included a call for an "escalation of political and military action against the Zionist enemy."

The sources said that the draft reaffirmed the programme adopted in 1974, which categorically ruled out Palestinian attendance at a reconvened Geneva Middle East peace conference on the basis of United Nations resolution 242 which defined the Palestinian issue as a refugee problem.

The draft, according to the sources, insists that the problem of the Palestinians driven from their homes when Israel was created in 1948 was the core of the Arab-Israeli dispute and the crux of the Middle East problem.

Although commando leader Yasser Arafat yesterday gave a qualified welcome to United States President Jimmy Carter's latest statements in the Middle East, the majority of delegates to the council felt disappointment and disillusion, delegates said.

Delegates said there was objection to Mr. Carter's choice of the word "refugees" and one moderate remarked that many PNC members had taken the remark as an outright provocation.

Their view was reflected by PNC spokesman Mahmoud Labadi who told a press conference "we are a people, we are not refugees."

Mr. Awwad said that President Carter's definition of genuine peace was identical with Israel's interpretation and said the American president should clarify precisely what he meant by "homeland" and where it should be established.

Delegates here said that one outcome of the discussion on the draft political statement could be the emergence of a recognised opposition block in the PLO, with a measure of mutual control over the activities of hawks and doves.

Delegates said the two sides were close to tacit agreement that the Rejection Front would in future be a form of recognised opposition to the what a hard-line delegate described as "the PLO government."

Following strike rallies Violence breaks out in Italian cities

ROME, March 18 (R).

— Sporadic violence broke out on the fringes of strike rallies in several Italian cities today as millions stopped work to protest against government anti-inflation policies.

But official sources in response to the trade union pressure, said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) insists the government continue these policies as a condition for a \$530 million loan to Italy.

The unions called out over 10 million workers all over Italy except Rome to protest against the government measures, which seek to limit large rises, and to demand more action to boost development of the impoverished south.

In Naples, Communist Union leader Luciano Lama declared: "The real, essential aim of this strike is the conquest of a new economic policy, based on investment and employment (and that) the south should be the beneficiary of this change."

Several thousand extremist students heckled Lama and scuffled with union stewards. Police fired at least one tear gas grenade to disperse them.

In Milan, student extremists broke away from the main rally, and police said pistol shots were fired against one company office.

At the headquarters of another company, two porters were held up at pistol point while youths scattered petrol and sat fire to it, police said.

Firemen had to rescue the company lawyer and three other trapped employees.

Union spokesmen said 100,000 attended a Milan strike rally addressed by Socialist Union leader Giorgio Benvenuto.

In Bologna, several hundred students heckled the main speaker, metalworkers' leader Bruno Trentin.

Bologna was the scene of vicious demonstrations last weekend after the death of a left-wing student activist during disturbances at the university.

Rome was not affected by today's strike because of a ban on public demonstrations imposed after similar demonstrations here last weekend.

The key issues dividing the unions, the government and the IMF concern a proposed block on company pay rises beyond nationally agreed rates, and preventing indirect taxation from being reflected in cost of living indexed pay increments.

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Situation tense but calm Lebanese villagers protest sectarian violence to president

BEIRUT, March 18 (Agencies).

— Seven hundred Christian villagers today blocked the entrance to Lebanon's presidential palace for two hours in support of demands for protection against sectarian killings following the assassination of leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt.

After arguing with security forces guarding the palace, a delegation of 25 was allowed in to set the demands before President Elias Sarkis.

The villagers arrived in a convoy of cars and buses to protest against the massacre of more than 100 Christians in the Shouf mountains by infuriated members of Mr. Jumblatt's Druze community.

The exact number of people to have died in the reprisals was not known, with Camille Chamoun, leader of the right-wing National Liberal Party, putting the figure at about 80, and the Phalangist Voice of Lebanon radio saying it was more than 100.

But independent sources said 64 people, all of them Christians, were slaughtered in reprisal for the assassination.

Five thousand Arab peace-keeping troops have already been sent into the Shouf mountains, the electoral fief of Mr. Jumblatt, since the reprisal killings began.

Many of the dead were themselves supporters of Mr. Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), their families said.

Lebanon as a whole was tense but quiet today after Wednesday's assassination and yesterday's funeral of Mr. Jumblatt. The funeral was attended by tens of thousands of Druze.

Tension in Beirut was noticeably less, although a few explosions disturbed Western districts of the city during the night.

More people ventured out into the streets, which were practically deserted yesterday, and several shops were open. Schools remained closed, however.

A spokesman for the 700 Christian

peasants who went to the palace said some families were still missing and they wanted them returned alive.

He said Mr. Sarkis promised that the sectarian killers would be arrested, and the villagers had given him the names of those who were known.

The president, in whom the Arab League vested command of the 30,000-strong peace-keeping force, told them he would do all he could to reinforce security in the Shouf.

Jumblatt's son Walid, who was proclaimed head of the Jumblatt Druze yesterday, has appealed to his followers for calm.

Diplomatic sources here speculated on the possible identity and motives of the assassins, who appeared to have planned the murder with the care which a professional intelligence service might take.

The sources discounted the possibility that the Christians of the Shouf were responsible, although the first reaction of their fellow villagers was to blame them.

The immediate effect of the murder was to inflame passions among Mr. Jumblatt's supporters.

This would almost certainly have erupted into open warfare but for the presence of nearly 30,000 Arab peace-keeping troops in the country.

The long-term effect is that

the Lebanese left is deprived of its only leader of major political standing and that the Palestinian commandos are robbed of their most influential Lebanese friend.

Although he had been in political eclipse for several months, moves were already afoot to end the hostility between Mr. Jumblatt and Syria.

Syrian Economy Minister Jamil Shaya arrived today at Mukhtara, home town of the assassinated Lebanese leader, to express the condolences of President Hafiz Assad to Mr. Walid Jumblatt.

Contact between Mr. Jumblatt and Syrian leaders was broken off about a year ago because of their differences concerning the Lebanese civil war.

Had he lived, Mr. Jumblatt could have been expected to be Lebanon's most forceful opponent of any action to push the Palestinian commandos into political and military ineffectiveness, communist diplomats said.

Meanwhile, a supporter of Mr. Jumblatt, who was detained by Syrian troops, has been released, parliamentary sources said today.

They said Mr. Zaher Al Khattib, a deputy from Mr. Jumblatt's region, was freed last night after being detained on his way home from the dead leader's funeral.

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6 opposition leaders arrested in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, March 18 (AFP).

— Six top Pakistani opposition leaders were today in custody following a series of arrests since yesterday.

Five of the six are leaders of the Pakistani National Alliance (PNA). Arrested during the night were Mr. Azhar Khan, Begum Wali Khan, Maulana Noorani, and Sardar Khan Kazari.

PNA Chairman Maulana Mufi Mahmood was arrested this afternoon in Peshawar, reportedly after leading an anti-government demonstration. A sixth leader, Chaudry Ahmed Ali, Secretary General of the Jamaat-i-Islami religious party, was arrested in Lahore during a similar demonstration.

Of the major opposition leaders, only PNA Secretary General Prof. Ghafoor Ahmed remains at liberty.

The arrests followed four days of troubles in almost all Pakistan's big cities. In violation of the law against mass meetings opposition militants daily gathered outside mosques and chanted slogans attacking Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Police used guns on several occasions, killing 10 persons and wounding many others. The authorities claim the police only started shooting when they were in danger.

Mr. Bhutto meanwhile made three overtures to the opposition, offering to discuss anything with them except the results of the March 7 elections, which the opposition claims were rigged.

Mr. Bhutto described the elections as a "settled matter". The opposition, which received some 6,000,000 votes against the Bhutto party's 10,000,000, continues to insist on new elections being held.

Prof. Ghafoor Ahmed reiterated at a press conference today that it was not merely a question of a few parliamentary seats but one of principle, because the popular will had been flouted.

The government meanwhile has been taking measures in anticipation of trouble. This

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Unhistoric handshake

U.S. President Jimmy Carter shook hands in New York Thursday evening with an official PLO representative, and, so far, the sky has not fallen down, floods have not covered the United States and little children all over the world have not been struck by thunderbolts hurled down by angered gods. In fact, things are pretty much where they were before Mr. Carter shook hands with the PLO man, and the great hand-shaking episode will not prove to be anything more than a reflection of the overblown curiosity and predatory lust of people who place form before substance. It is significant, perhaps, that Mr. Carter only shook hands with Mr. Hassan Abdul Rahman, the PLO delegate at the U.N. reception where the little drama took place, but that he did not exchange words with him. Mr. Abdul Rahman asked Mr. Carter how he was, and Mr. Carter simply smiled and did not reply. Perhaps, in fact, Mr. Carter was not feeling well, his malaise being reflected in a sudden inability to verbalise his condition? Perhaps Mr. Carter was stunned that a PLO man would ask such a conventional question, instead of trying to hijack the reception? And furthermore, did they shake hands vigorously, or meekly? Did they look each other in the eye, or did they make hand contact only, without eye contact? Are these important questions, or are they as silly as the whole matter of the importance of Mr. Carter shaking hands with the PLO?

Surely, the White House had gone to great pains beforehand to let everybody know that the U.S. had not changed its views of the PLO, a point that Mr. Carter repeated immediately after he shook hands with Mr. Abdul Rahman. Given the circumstances of the reception arrangement, Mr. Carter did not have a chance. If he shook hands with the PLO man, he'd be criticised for doing so; if he didn't shake hands, he'd be criticised for not doing so. The only way he really could have avoided the silly matter was to have avoided the reception altogether. There are circumstances in which this handshake would have been of real significance. This was not one of them.

The real interest that Mr. Carter has generated this month has been the result of his statements, particularly about the need for the Palestinians to have a "homeland", for an almost total Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories and for the Arabs and the Israelis to hammer out a peace among themselves. His line of thinking to date is proving to be sensible on most points, because he appears to be taking the interests of all parties into concern, and not only the interests of Israel. No wonder they're worried about handshakes in Tel Aviv.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

All Jordanian dailies commented once again in their Friday editorials on the speech His Majesty King Hussein delivered on Teachers' Day Wednesday, in which he warned Jordanians against the enemy's conspiracies aimed at breaking up Jordan's national unity.

AL RAJ says that His Majesty in his speech warned against a conspiracy being woven in the dark to strike at Arab solidarity, which has been cemented by the various meetings among Arab leaders. Jordan's role in achieving Arab solidarity has been instrumental and effective, in particular with Jordan sticking to its constant policy that peace will not be achieved in the area without a total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories. This firm position constitutes a great danger to the enemy's plans, which brought its leaders to declare more than once that His Majesty King Hussein is Israel's major enemy. Israel and its supporters will unveil soon the conspiracies which they are preparing against Jordan, the paper added. It is always the moderates that are exposed to such plots, the paper says. With this in mind, the paper adds, we should heed the warning of our leader and, armed with our civic and political awareness, our only weapon, try to meet these challenges to safeguard our national unity.

AL DUSTOUR says that the "Jordanian model" was and still is a positive factor which has helped to preserve stability in the region, through its local, Arab and international action. It has also played an instrumental role in bolstering Arab solidarity, the paper adds. It was but natural for His Majesty to have outlined and emphasized the characteristics of that model. It has always been the rock against which enemy waves were broken and still constitutes the only obstacle to the implementation of the enemy's designs. On the national level, Jordan is known for the unity among its various groups,

and their will to work for progress which has enabled the country to become a factor of stability in the region. On the Arab level, Jordan, inspired by the wise leadership of His Majesty, has always worked for Arab unity and Arab strength. On the international level, Jordan, with its understanding and exact analysis of influencing factors ruling the international scene, has succeeded in obtaining a privileged place within the international community and has become the Arabs' rational voice, listened to with seriousness and respect. The action of Jordan through these three levels has made it the target for conspiracies by an enemy which cannot face a rational opponent capable of unmasking its plans. However, whatever plots they plan Jordan will continue to increase in strength to serve the Arab cause, the paper concluded.

AL SHA'B says that His Majesty's speech should be considered a national document, as it contains the fundamentals for a successful Arab action. Jordan, has faced since 1967, numerous pressures to bring it to accept unilaterally a settlement with the Zionist aggressor. However, Jordan, the paper says, despite the many difficult situations in which it has found itself has always refused to do so and has stood firmly by position. The total withdrawal of Israel from occupied territories. Jordan has also stood firmly by its policy of calling for Arab unity to work in a positive and rational manner. Jordan's emphasis on these two points has had the effect of bolstering Arab unity and unveiling the designs of the Zionist enemy, hence the enemy's conspiracies directed toward Jordan, to make it budge from its positions which threaten Israel's existence and convictions. We should be alert and ready to negate any attempt to strike at our national unity, as His Majesty warned in his speech, the paper concluded.



'President Carter has invited us to the SALT talks, pass it on.'

Controversial communique claims Liberian recognition of Red China

TAIPEI, March 17 (AFP). — While the Chinese Communists appear more flexible in establishing relations with foreign countries, the Nationalists seem as persistent as before in breaking off formal ties with governments electing to recognise Peking.

Observers here noted with interest a missing clause in the joint communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Liberia and Communist China on February 22.

The communique simply stated that the two governments decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level and to exchange ambassadors.

Yet, the Chinese version as provided by the New China News Agency had the following clause which was missing in the English version: The government of the Republic of Liberia recognises the government of the People's Republic of China as sole legal government of China.

The status of Taiwan was not included in the joint communique. There was also contradiction over the date of the establishment of diplomatic relations. The Chinese Communists made it February 17, while the Liberian government had it as February 22.

Local observers said that obviously the communique was so hastily worked out that it indicated Peking's eagerness to utilise the Liberian recognition as a stimulus in the wake of domestic instability.

It also showed that Communist China was willing to sacrifice principles for pragmatic purposes, a ranking Nationalist Chinese government official asserted.

On the other hand, however, the Nationalist Chinese government appears more consistent in breaking off its diplomatic ties with any government that chooses to extend diplomatic recognition to their Chinese Communist rival government in Peking.

Government sources said that there had been a number of governments which wished to maintain diplomatic relations with Taipei while establishing formal ties with Peking. A Two-China policy, so to speak. Such advances, however, have all been disregarded by the Nationalist government.

But the Nationalist statements on breaking off relations with foreign governments have also become shorter and clearer, having abandoned previous harsh remarks condemning the Chinese Communists and blaming the third party for shortsightedness.

A ranking official of the foreign ministry told this correspondent, "we have refrained from making such comments in the hope that these governments will pay us due respect in the long run."

In October, 1972, Peking signed the shortest and simplest joint communique with West Germany without any strings attached.

The 35-word statement did not mention Peking's usual claim to Taiwan. Nor did it say a single word about any West German stand on the Nationalist island such as Canada and Japan did in understanding and respecting Peking's position.

This first so-called 'clean joint communique', agreed to by Communist China, perhaps was an indication that Peking was no longer obsessed with the Taiwan problem when the United States and Japan, two of Taiwan's strongest supporters, had shaken hands with the Chinese Communist regime.

Earlier in 1972, U.S. President Richard Nixon paid his historic visit to Peking and expressed his government's intention not to challenge the identical advocacy of both the Chinese Nationalists and Communists that there is only one China, and that Taiwan is part of the Chinese territory.

Nevertheless, the briefest, one-paragraph joint communique that Communist China signed with West Germany was most expressive of the eagerness on the part of the Chinese Communists to establish formal ties with major powers of the outside world, in spite of the fact that Taipei had already been replaced by Peking at the United Nations a year ago.

The communique, which was then described by foreign observers as a reflection of good diplomacy, was, however, signed against the background of the handshake between China's ideological rival Soviet Russia and the West German government earlier in the year.

Typical of Chinese Communist terms in establishing diplomatic ties with foreign governments is a statement in the joint communique that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China, in addition to the clause concerning recognising Peking as the sole legal government.

Britain and India, which were the earliest countries to extend diplomatic recognition to the Chinese Communist Government in 1950, had no problem as regards Taiwan as the Nationalist government had not then established itself there.

France, which recognised Peking in 1964 with another short communique at a time when the Chinese Communists were in self-imposed isolation, simply dodged the Taiwan question, telling the Chinese Communists, in effect that she would cross that bridge when she came to it.

That leaves a good number of countries, including Japan, Canada, Italy, Chile, Peru, Lebanon, Argentina, Greece, Venezuela, and Brazil in the category of only taking note of the Chinese Communist claim, leaving wide open the future status of Taiwan.

Absurdity's loophole

By Bassam Bishri

If in doubt, try common sense

"Astrology, my dear Lady Bric-a-Brac, is the art of the impossible, masquerading as the science of the ponderable."

Oscar Wilde didn't say that; I did. Therefore, I cannot tell whether he believed in astrology or not, and at times I cannot tell whether or not I believe in it myself. It all depends, you see, on where Jupiter happens to be at any given moment.

If Jupiter were in conjunction with Neptune then I would, at such a specific time, be a believer in astrology. If, however, Jupiter were in conjunction with Saturn, it will be a period in which I would describe astrology as a load of balderdash. This is so because while Neptune stands for illusion and fantasy, Saturn personifies seriousness and practicality. These characteristics are enhanced by Jupiter which represents emphasis and expansion. Astrology is truly a correct and exact science masquerading as a frivolous and vague art.

Between the science and the art is a measure precisely the size of the measure between the art and the science. An impassable gap the thickness of a human hair -- and it all depends, at any given moment, on where the moon happens to be. For the moon is erratic, but if trouble is to locate it on the horizon, it will be seen that astrology is neither a science nor an art; and neither an art nor a science; but much more. It is a profound form of philosophy.

Indeed, for just as philosophers waste no time before they declare their theories, I have met some people who waste no time before they declare their astrology. You happen to be introduced to one of them -- you will just have met the person for the first time -- and in one mouthful they toss: "Pleased to meet you, what's your sign?"

If you don't know what sign you were born under -- woe and alas -- you will be socially ostracised forever. If you do, and you tell, whatever sort of social intercourse you are likely to have with the astro-scientific philosopher you have just been introduced to, will entirely be determined by whether or not your sign is astrologically compatible with his or hers.

But of course I'm exaggerating. Have you ever heard any of these philosophers tell his boss: "Sorry, sir, but I will not be able to work for you; your Taurus is incompatible with my Aries"? Or, have you ever heard one of their women inform her husband that "we'll have to divorce, dear, your Libra is incompatible with my Virgo"? If you have heard any such statements the place you're at is called a mental asylum -- the only available paradise where science, art and philosophy are one and the same.

Our normal, average, everyday astrological fanatic is not of this sort. When astrological signs are glaringly incompatible but common sense dictates that the particular relationship had better carry on, he will tell you: "Ah! It all depends on your Ascendant sign." If that also proves incompatible with his, never fear, common sense is still here, for "my friend," he'll say, "it all depends on your moon." Good old erratic moon, how many common senses are committed in thy name!

The way to sift through, and pigeon-hole these astrological fanatics is to get them to reveal their methods of knowledge. You go all in this fashion:

Upon locating your prey, you put on your most serious face and approach the man, assuredly -- they delight in everything if measurable -- and you introduce your Once the magic question of your sign is manded of you -- and that won't take long come -- you will design to look though you will, after a respectable while, convey reply in the form of another question. (I mean to bring to the notice of my dear man that what follows has no bearing whatsoever on my own, jealously guarded, astrology data). You will ask your prey: "If my sign is Leo and my Ascendant is Gemini, would I be a fool, a knave or a jackass?"

If our friend says you're a fool he'll be a scientist-astrologer. If he pronounces you knave he's an artist-astrologer. If he tells you a jackass he must be a philosopher-astrologer. But if he judiciously states at you for admitting that he can't tell because all depends on your moon, you will the sure that you have met with a genius. One call a commonsense-astrologer, a rare bird.

For, you see, it really does depend on moon and it is in the way your moon is interpreted that you can tell what sort of a longer you have come across.

The scientist-astrologer analyses the relationship between your Leo and your Gemini as a scientific phenomenon. Like the effect moon has on the tide. He concludes, there that you are under the influence of the moon -- i.e., a lunatic -- so he says that you a fool.

The artist-astrologer is more picturesquely and imaginatively. But he is also more. He likens the irregularity and changeableness which dominate your Leo-Gemini horoscope the inconstant and whimsical moon which he translates into an image of deceit and caltity. Hence, he pronounces you a knave.

The philosopher-astrologer is both a philosopher and an imaginative. But he is also more. He templates your horoscope, which is a cross between the roar of a lion and the wail of a pair of infant twins, and reminds him of a mule braying at the moon. He declares you, thus, a jackass.

But the commonsense-astrologer is the best of them all in understanding. He is a true mystic. He can fathom quite plainly the moon makes you, at one and the same a fool, a knave and a jackass. But he is that the moon has a much bigger influence than that. He concludes, therefore, that he not say what you are until he knows about your moon, because "it all depends on your moon."

What pure, pure commonsense! Do not taken in by its apparent simplicity. This commonsense is the ultimate in heavenly unit contains within it all science and all art all philosophy -- as only paradise could luminous lunatics, how all commonsense depends on the moon!

Laotian king and family remain missing after Pathet Lao are

BANGKOK, March 18 (AFP). — A question mark hangs over the fate of Laotian King Si Savang Vatthana who was arrested by the Pathet Lao political police on March 12 at dawn. The king was arrested in the former royal capital of Luang Prabang together with his wife, his son the crown prince and several members of the royal family.

According to a rumour originating from the Thai border town of Nong Khai, 27 km. (16 miles) downstream from Vientiane, the king and Crown Prince Si Savangvong had been executed. The rumour was greeted with reserve and could not be confirmed by diplomatic sources in Laos.

As early as last Sunday, Japanese correspondents reported the execution but without quoting any source.

Well-informed diplomatic sources here said the king and the royal family had been taken to Phong Saly, in the northern Lao area near the Chinese border.

Other sources affirmed however that the former head of state was taken to Viengxay, the Pathet Lao capital during the civil war, near the Vietnamese frontier.

Diplomatic sources claimed that the king's entourage, including those who are members of the royal family, had been arrested and jailed at Luang Prabang, 250 km. (150 miles) north of Vientiane.

Highly-placed sources in Laos stated that Laotian security forces arrested the king to prevent any possible moves of anti-communist guerrillas to kidnap the king and to turn him into a symbol of the nationalist resistance.

Those who have met him since his forced abdication shun violence, where comes from.

Patron of buddhism, more faith in the value of arms and meditation of armed struggle, the said.

The king remained throughout the civil war refused to be crowned as national unity was not achieved.

Diplomatic circles doubt on the alleged levelled against the king his relatives.

Informed sources said pressure on Luang Prabang somewhat eased after a val of government reforms, but that national rallies were still in full of strategic peaks on the access to the royal capital.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6 : 8:30 Arabic series
6:00 Quran
6:30 Children's programme
6:30 English by television
7:00 Time to remember
8:00 News in Arabic
Channel 3 : 7:30 Family programme
Channel 6 : 7:30 News in Hebrew
7:45 Varieties
8:30 Get some in
9:10 Saturday variety show
10:00 News in English
10:15 Movie of the week

RADIO JORDAN

(On 896 KHZ) 7:00 Morning melodies
7:30 News
7:40 News reports
8:00 Sign off
10:00 Life's kind of music
11:00 Catch the words
11:45 Arab scientists
12:00 Pop session
13:00 News summary
13:05 Pop session
14:00 News
14:10 Radio magazine
14:30 Good vibrations
15:00 Concert hour
16:00 Old favourites
16:30 Easy listening
17:00 Jordan weekly
17:30 Pop session
18:00 News summary
18:05 15 weekly
18:15 Music
18:30 Varieties
19:00 News
19:10 Music

EMERGENCIES

Doctors : Bashour (26117)
Yared (22778)
Sami Aql (37724)
Wajih Barakat (68882)
Ibnul : Ahmad Bhattawi (3625)
Amrur Fakhour (2025)
Zarga : Mah. Mahaydeen (83309)
Pharmacies : Neel (44633)
Tariq (23024)
Firas (61912)
Khishin (44198)
Mishal (26117)
Yared (22778)
Saudom
Zarga : Ahlia
Hadith
Taxis : Neel (44633)
Tariq (23024)
Jerusalem (36555)
Ahram (36911)

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals : 7:55 Cairo (BA)
8:20 Dubai (Alitalia)
8:25 Muscat, Doha
8:45 Kuwait
8:45 Kazaal, Dubai
8:50 Tehran
8:45 Jeddah
10:20 Beirut
11:10 Agaba
11:35 Riyadh, Dhahran (SDI)
12:30 Damascus
12:40 Cairo
12:40 Beirut (MEA)
20:05 London (BA)
Departures : 8:10 Damascus, Munich, Frankfurt (Lufthansa)
8:20 Beirut, Baghdad, Jeddah, Haal, Jeddah (SDI)
8:45 Beirut (MEA)
8:45 Cairo (BA)
8:55 Rome (Alitalia)
9:30 Agaba
10:20 Cairo
11:05 Bucharest (Taroni)
11:40 Geneva, Brussels
12:00 London
12:30 Rome, Paris
13:30 Jeddah (SDI)
14:00 Damascus
18:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai
21:05 Raswailah (BA)

EBC RADIO

GMT 05:00 News, Press Review
05:15 Letterbox
05:30 Music from Scotland
05:45 The World Today
06:00 News, Press Review
06:20 Bob Holmes Requests
07:00 News
07:15 From the Weeklies
07:30 Music from Scotland
07:45 Letter from London
07:55 A Musical Dictionary
08:00 News, Reflections
08:15 Europe
08:30 Dailly Pope
08:45 News, Press Review
09:15 The World Today
09:30 Financial News
09:45 Come to the Opera
10:15 Scotland 77
10:30 Matthew on Music
11:00 News
11:15 Europa
11:30 The Test on the Farm
12:00 Radio Newsweek
12:15 Take It or Leave It
12:45 Sports Round-up
13:00 News, Commentary
13:15 Business and Industry
13:30 A City and Its Music
14:00 News
14:05 Book Choice
14:15 Strike up the Band
14:30 Terry Wogan's LP Showcases
15:00 Radio Newsweek
15:15 Saturday Special
15:30 News, Commentary
15:45 Saturday Special
15:50 News Summary
17:00 News
17:05 Saturday Special
17:15 Sports Round-up
17:30 News
18:15 Radio Newsweek
18:30 Theatre of the Air
18:45 Dailly Pope
19:00 News, Commentary
19:15 Just a Minute
21:00 The Energy of God
21:15 Command Performance
21:40 Books and Writers
22:00 News
22:05 Music Now
22:15 The Week in Wales
22:40 News, Commentary

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT 03:00 The Breakfast Show : 19:00 News and Topical
to on the hour and 25
06:30 after each hour.
07:15 This Week
07:30 Press Conference USA 20:00 Special English
12:30 Special English News
12:35 Words and their
Stories. News Summary 20:15 Music USA (Jazz)
21:00 News

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government) Tel. 20111
Civil defence rescue Tel. 20000-4
Fire headquarters Tel. 20000
First aid, fire, police Tel. 20
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency) Tel. 20000-2
Municipal water service (emergency) Tel. 20111-3
Police headquarters Tel. 20101
Night, towing patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help Tel. 20111, 571

Cultural Centres

American Centre (USIS) Tel. 61889
British Council Tel. 20000-6
French Cultural Centre Tel. 20000
Gosha Institute Tel. 61889
Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 61889
American Municipal Library Tel. 20111

مركز الصلوات

The Armed Forces Band: Just like a symphonic orchestra

Jordanian Armed Forces Band has earned its reputation Arab World -- and outside -- for the high standard of its music. The Jordan Times recently investigated the of its success. Its leader, Capt. Jamal Attieh -- who has been in the band for 28 years -- talked about its beginnings, its evolution and its future projects.

Irene Ramadan to the Jordan Times

the most melodious in the Middle East -- magnificent men with "magical" (head-dress), "magical" brass and their "magical" wind-instruments. The Jordanian Armed Forces Band has gained fame of the ability and of its musicians and it is run like a real orchestra.

By this band gained its reputation as an interesting characterised by great ingenuity. As the history of music has been with military starting with the trum- percho, the legendary seilaise" and on to John Philip Souza. Jan, the Army Band ded at the same time Emirate of Trans-Jor- hose days it included musicians. Its first di- yas Mohammad Khat-

ter. Now the Armed Forces Band is a huge ensemble of 530 performers.

This musical evolution has always been on equal footing with the development of the army. In the beginning these were brass and wind-instruments; then pipes, drums and bagpipes were added. The soldiers were taught music by special Jordanian officers, who were sent abroad to get a solid training and a deep musical knowledge.

A SCHOOL OF MUSIC
After a time, the need for a local school of music became more and more urgent. The Armed Forces Band acquired its own school in 1964. The soldier-students have to spend two years in this school before joining the band. They receive theoretical, as well as practical musical education. The various instruments taught are the flute, the trumpet, the clarinet, the saxophone, the

cornet, the trombone, the horn, the bass and brass instruments and the bagpipes.

The band is now divided into seven groups. Each one is trained as an independent orchestra which, from time to time, performs for special occasions. The seven groups are chiefly trained to play together for special and official events. The whole band is also called Nawbet Al Masa (Night Band), because most of the time it performs at sunset after the lowering of the flag and always in the presence of King Hussein.

A MUSICAL LIBRARY

Besides the school of music, the Armed Forces Band has its own studio for rehearsals and its own library, where one can find more than 10,000 scores, ranging from classical pieces to all kinds of western and oriental marches and rhythms. The musical arrangements and the scoring are done by members of the ensemble. Some of them have also composed anthems for Jordanian army units, especially the Royal Military Academy and the Special Forces.

Such a background has certainly contributed to the success of the band, as well as to the very personal style it has developed. The way the musicians interpret military tunes is full of rhythm. And vice versa, their interpretation of classical and popular pieces reveals their dynamism and their rhythmic potentialities.

The group has been touring since 1956. It has performed in England, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Italy, Turkey, Iran, the United States, Spain, Kuwait, Bahrain, France and Yemen. To its credit are a lot of international awards -- the Golden Medal of the Festival of Bari, the First Prize at the Festival of London in 1955 and a certificate of honour from the mayor of New York.

MUSICAL TOP SPOT

In this way, Jordan has become the top spot for military music. The Armed Forces Band



With bagpipes swirling...

often trains soldiers from other Arab armies.

Nawbet Al Masa is always present when heads of state visit Jordan. Among the personalities it has entertained in the past are the Duke of Windsor and the late King Abdul Aziz Saud.

King Hussein pays special attention to the continual modernisation of the band. Currently, military music is the language for glorifying the country and stimulating soldiers at crucial moments. Nawbet Al Masa is more: it gives the Jordanian soldier the opportunity of becoming a talented musician. Ex-President Nixon perceived this well when he heard the band. He said: "When I hear Jordanian military music, it sounds to me like symphonic music in the United States."

East Jordan road links now under construction

AMMAN (JNA). -- The Ministry of Public Works is now embarking on a number of major road projects in the eastern area of the country. The aim is to improve overland routes to Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states and boost trade and transit movement, besides serving the people in these areas.

The ministry organised a tour of these projects for an information team. It visited the 233-km. road linking Azraq with the Iraqi border.

The two-lane highway, begun last summer, will cost JD 8 million, financed by an Iraqi loan.

A new 200-km road linking Azraq, Bayir and Jaffar will also be constructed under the five-year plan. When it is finished it will link the Iraqi border with the port of Aqaba.

The Ministry of Public Works early this year completed a 56-km-long road linking Azraq with the Saudi border.

U.N. team arrives

AMMAN (JNA). -- The United Nations tripartite fact-finding committee looking into the health and social conditions of the population in the occupied territories arrived in Amman from Damascus Friday.

The committee will confer with officials of the Health and Foreign Ministries, the Red Crescent Society and UNRWA to study the poor living conditions in the occupied areas. It will also visit a number of refugee camps in Jordan to find out about conditions there.

The committee's visit is part of a tour to a number of Arab countries, which will be followed by a visit to the occupied territories. The U.N. committee will prepare a report to be submitted to U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim.

OCT. EXPORTS TO SAUDI ARABIA JUMP JD 222,000

AMMAN (JNA). -- Jordan's exports to Saudi Arabia in October 1976 rose to JD 789,000 against JD 547,000 in October 1975.

Imports from Saudi Arabia in October 1976 totalled JD 494,000 against JD 413,000 a year before.

Main exports were vegetables, fruits, pressed olives, cigarettes, medicine, plastic utensils, ready-made garments and cheese, while crude oil was the main item imported from Saudi Arabia.

Shaker visits Assad in Syria

DAMASCUS, March 18 (R). -- The Commander-in-Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and his wife today met President Hafez Assad and Mrs. Assad.

The meeting was attended by Maj.-Gen. Hikmet Al Shihabi, Syrian Chief of Staff and his wife.

Lt.-Gen. Shaker arrived in Damascus earlier today on a special visit. He arrived back in Amman this evening.

434 Ph.D holders employed in civil service

AMMAN (JNA). -- Holders of a Ph.D. in the government sector last April numbered 434 -- 421 men and 13 women. Holders of an M.A. degree numbered 544 -- 493 men and 51 women. Of the 496 people holding high diplomas, there were 440 men and 46 women, while holders of B.A. degrees totalled 8,219 -- 6,820 men and 1,399 women.

These figures were gleaned from an employment survey carried out in April 1976 by the Department of Statistics in establishments with five or more employees.



Dr. Husni Khreis (second from right) is re-elected unopposed as President of the Medical Association Friday. (JNA photo).

Medical Association elections take place

AMMAN (J.T.). -- The elections for the president and the members of the board of the Medical Association took place Friday.

As no one stood for the presidency, Dr. Husni Khreis was elected by ovation as President of the Association.

The 10 new members of the board were then elected from 24 candidates:

1. Dr. Anwar Bilbelsi: 199 votes

Coop training course to open

AMMAN (JNA). -- A training course for directors of Jordanian cooperative societies will begin Saturday at the Cooperative Training Centre here.

The week-long course will be opened by Director General of the Jordanian Cooperative Organisation Marwan Doudin. It will be attended by 25 cooperative directors. The course comprises theoretical lectures and applied practice in accountancy and registration of societies designed to improve administrative work in the cooperatives.

ERRATUM

It has been brought to our notice that in an article on the projected Kuwaiti loan published in the Jordan Times of March 15, we stated that the loan would, among other things, be used for financing the potash project. This should have read the phosphate expansion programme.

What's Going On

The Goethe Institute in co-operation with the Economics Department of the Royal Scientific Society presents a series of lectures on economic theory and economic policy given by Prof. Gerhard Schmitt-Rink.

10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., at the Royal Scientific Society.

DAJANI RETURNS FROM CAIRO

AMMAN (JNA). -- Jordan will benefit to the tune of JD 3 million from dues on transit goods following a decision taken by the Arab Economic Council, which has finished its two-day meeting in Cairo.

Minister of Industry and Commerce Najmeddin Dajani told reporters here on his return from the meeting Friday that the dues will be levied at a rate of 0.4 per cent of the value of the goods.

The minister went on to say that the council also discussed the establishment of an Afro-Arab bank. The study on this project was submitted to the special work committee of the Afro-Arab summit.

Alia training course to open

AMMAN (JNA). -- A familiarisation course in the field of commercial aviation will open at the Alia Training Centre Saturday.

It will deal with sales operations, freight, booking, reception and dispatch of aircraft and other subjects related to tourist activities and public relations.

The course, which will last until mid-July, will be attended by 44 trainees. Successful students will be qualified to work for air companies and tourist and travel bureaus.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

| Foreign Currency | U.S. dollar | U.K. sterling | German mark | French franc | Swiss franc | Italian lira (for every 100) | Saudi riyal | Lebanese pound | Syrian pound | Iraqi dinar | Kuwaiti dinar | Egyptian pound | Libyan dinar | UAE dirham | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|------------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|---------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|
| Jordanian fils | 332.0 | 579.0 | 332.0 | 334.0 | 139.2 | 139.6 | 66.8 | 67.1 | 130.2 | 37.5 | 37.7 | 94.1 | 94.3 | 110.0 | 110.5 | 82.2 | 82.4 | 949.0 | 954.0 | 1,154.0 | 1,160.0 | 462.0 | 470.0 | 810.0 | 815.0 | 65.2 | 65.5 |

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Vancouver sets an example in how to utilise variety in city planning

VANCOUVER, British Columbia. (CSM). — Whereas many major cities look like victims of self-immolation, Vancouver, a mating of human amenity and natural terrain, provides an impelling image of what self-respect can achieve by way of a capacious, congenial urban environment.

There is no noxious bubble of a sociologist's "melting pot" in these parts. Vancouver has made variety count.

And with an active disdain for unbridled expansion, it has had to contain that variety within the compact caress of mountains and shoreline, ever present reminders of the need for stability amid change.

Folding in and out of the undulating contours, or lining and defining well-trodden streets, diverse residential areas, commercial districts, and at times a combination of the two, create an intricate, yet uniquely intimate, lattice work of experiences.

As unpretentious as a lumberjack, as polite as a parliamentarian, Vancouver is a collection of lively enclaves that seem to have been set, with utmost care, along the pathways of a vast primordial garden.

Dr. Michael Y. Seelig, the noted planner, is one of many local leaders who have gradually made conservation of such characteristics a keystone of the city's urban design and land development policies.

But, studying those sentiments, it seems that the outcry is not so much against growth itself as it is an outcry for conserving the amenities, cultural characteristics,

and natural assets which they truly enjoy.

This goes well beyond saving historic buildings. It means determining what people treasure in different parts of the city. Trees, fences, familiar lot sizes, important views — all these may be as important, if not more important, than the individual buildings making up an area.

If planning perceptions can begin, as they are here, with an understanding of the character of such an area, of the social and physical scale it represents, proposed changes can be looked at from the standpoint of how they can enhance that character — not just from the standpoint of how to go about preventing change.

Indeed, by preserving the elements that are important to people, and by alleviating the fear that everything familiar is disappearing, a conservation policy can become a means of making some types of change more "acceptable."

For a conservation policy, Dr. Seelig's attitude could be construed as being almost radical, for it goes to the roots of the people.

Such roots surface in areas like Quebec Street which, like so much of the city, is made up of single-family houses. It is a blue-collar district, the places are closely packed along neighbouring streets, and many of the front stoops edge right out to the sidewalks. Buzz saws, paint brushes, and pruning shears are ubiquitous.

Self-respect put together with a lot of self-help has made Quebec Street a very classy

example of how commonplace people can create a close-knit, cohesive setting.

And "conservation," in this case, would consist of helping the community clean up each fibre while, at the same time, assuring that taller, non-residential buildings be positioned on the skirting streets of the area.

Other roots surface in the Shaughnessy District, a rolling expanse with irregular, curving roadways that are embellished with big trees, dense hedges, and vine-covered fences. The lots are large; the houses, set back from streetside beneath the bowers, are subtly resplendent.

Here is a "suburb" like suburbs should have been, could have been — except this one is in the city itself. One treks through the area less aware of its exclusivity as a district than as its availability as a kind of city wide park, noticing that many others are trekking through as well.

What the Beatles sang of as those "Strawberry Fields Forever" are not, one is convinced, some evasive Utopia "out there" but a humanly enhancing encounter between man and nature that is possible within existing cities.

Kitsilano Point is a peninsula full of proximity between varied income groups, housing types, public institutions, and beach front parks. There is the permanent feast of Chinatown, with its refurbished Strathcona section.

Japantown, too, one of Dr. Seelig's primary enthusiasms, is stirring up the soya with the first floor of many disconnected, nondescript old clunkers

being turned into shops or restaurants.

While one sees many downtown the best types languishing around Oppenheimer Park, the city has at least perceived that planners would be short changing the district were new buildings, like the recent provincial court, to push out the unique, positive ethnic and cultural qualities.

The challenge remains as to whether an influx of lawyers and other professionals, plus the inevitable restaurants and watering holes to serve them, can be dove tailed with the prevalent physical scale of Japantown.

Nearby Gastown, the pride of historic conservation in Vancouver, is a pot-pourri of old structures, spry architectural characters, that have been recycled in one of the most important examples of sensible urban renewal to be found in recent years, anywhere.

Two agencies have the primary responsibility for what is happening here. One is the city planning department, an enlightened coterie of professionals as such ballistics of expertise usually go.

The second highly innovative agency is the social planning department, set up nine years ago, which is charged with evaluating the social impact of programmes. It has ended up doing a lot of the actual planning itself.

Here is a "human settlement" with poignant meaning for those meeting here to turn back the tide of urban desolation — a city where self-respect and mutual respect have become essential to the vocabulary of community planners.



Vancouver shows how good planning can benefit everyone.

Saudi patrons ignite a modern renaissance in architecture

RIYADH (CSM). — Like the merchant princes of Renaissance Europe, the Saudi Arabians of today are drawing together some of the world's leading architects, designers, and engineers. Their job — to fill empty desert spaces with buildings of splendour.

"This is the answer to a designer's dream," says Tony Irving, a London architect, formerly of Beirut, Lebanon. He has worked on scores of the palaces, private houses, and public buildings now rising in a furious outward burst of construction on desert spaces where, only a few years ago, stood less than a generation ago.

With neither space nor money problems, Saudi Arabia's petrodollar-financed construction boom is unprecedented. "Here," says Tony Irving's Lebanese partner, Victor Tarazi, who has designed all or a share of about 250 separate projects, mostly in Riyadh, "you have your choice — from prefabs to palatial residences. You can design a whole town, if you land the contract and have the vision and the energy to follow through."

The major town and industrial-design projects are international. At the east-coast village of Jubail, two new ports, one industrial, the other commercial, are fast taking shape under contracts signed in early 1976.

South Korea's Hyundai Construction Corporation, a bit with the Saudis because of the discipline and efficiency of its imported Korean work force of nearly 12,000, is building the industrial port. A consortium including West German's Hochtief, Adrian Volker of the Netherlands, and Consolidated Contracting Company of Lebanon, is to build the second phase of the commercial port at Jubail, after Greece's Archi-rodon finishes the first phase.

Consulting engineers for the Jubail projects are Sir William Halcrow Partners of Britain. They are responsible for the coordination of dredging by subcontractors, who have to move about 120 million cubic feet of mud and bedrock, the use of 45 million cubic feet of earth fill and rock, and the construction of highways.

"The future for architects in Saudi Arabia," says Victor Tarazi, "lies in quality. People are asking for it now." Since many Saudi princes, wealthy businessmen, and professional people do not know exactly what they want when they order a design for a house or public building, the designer often can exercise his own tastes.

Irving and Tarazi's Design Supervision Group is working on many new houses for Saudis in Riyadh. Floor areas of 30,000 square feet are quite usual.

"When I visited Washington, D.C., a couple of years ago," recalls Mr. Tarazi, "I was a bit taken aback by how small the White House seemed — I had just finished working on a design for a house with a dining hall for 500 people!" At present Mr. Irving and

Mr. Tarazi are designing and supervising buildings for the Saudi Youth and Welfare Administration, which includes the Saudi Arabian Olympic Committee (this country hopes to attract future Olympic Games).

Another firm, Ian Fraser, John Roberts & Partners of Britain, has prepared for government approval of a model of an 80,000-seat Olympic stadium near Riyadh.

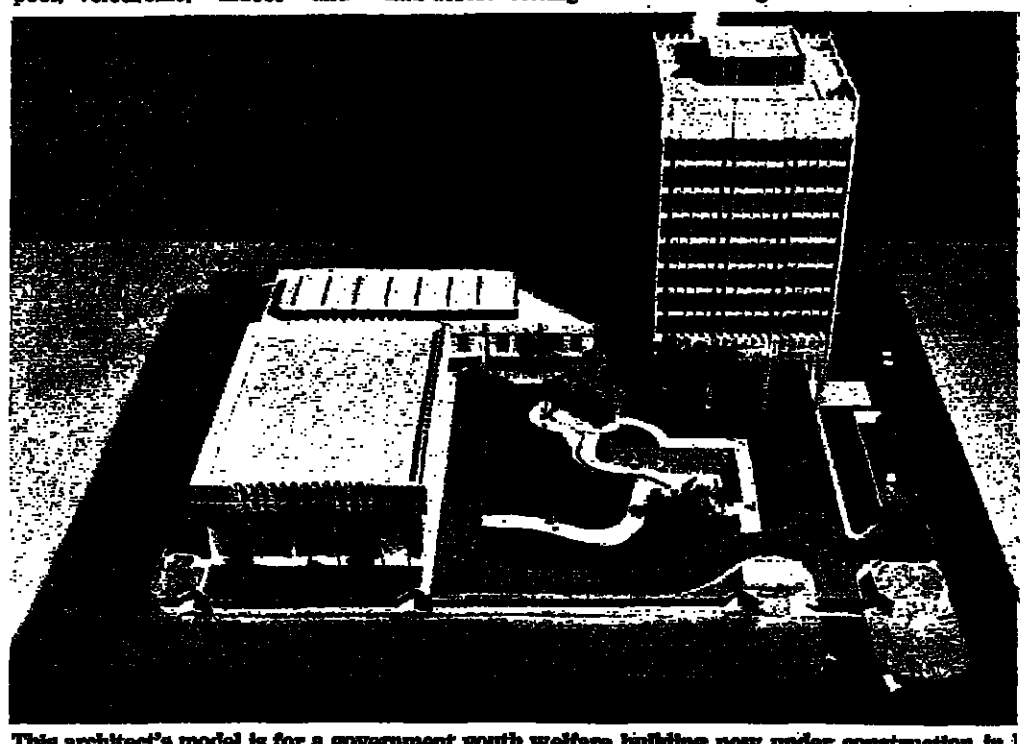
West German of West Germany is to manage construction of an entire Olympic sports village. It includes a swimming pool, velodrome, indoor and

outdoor playing fields and courts, a motorcycle speedway, theatre, mosque, and living quarters for thousands of athletes. The swimming pool draws on the successful designs of the pools built for the last two Olympics at Munich and Montreal.

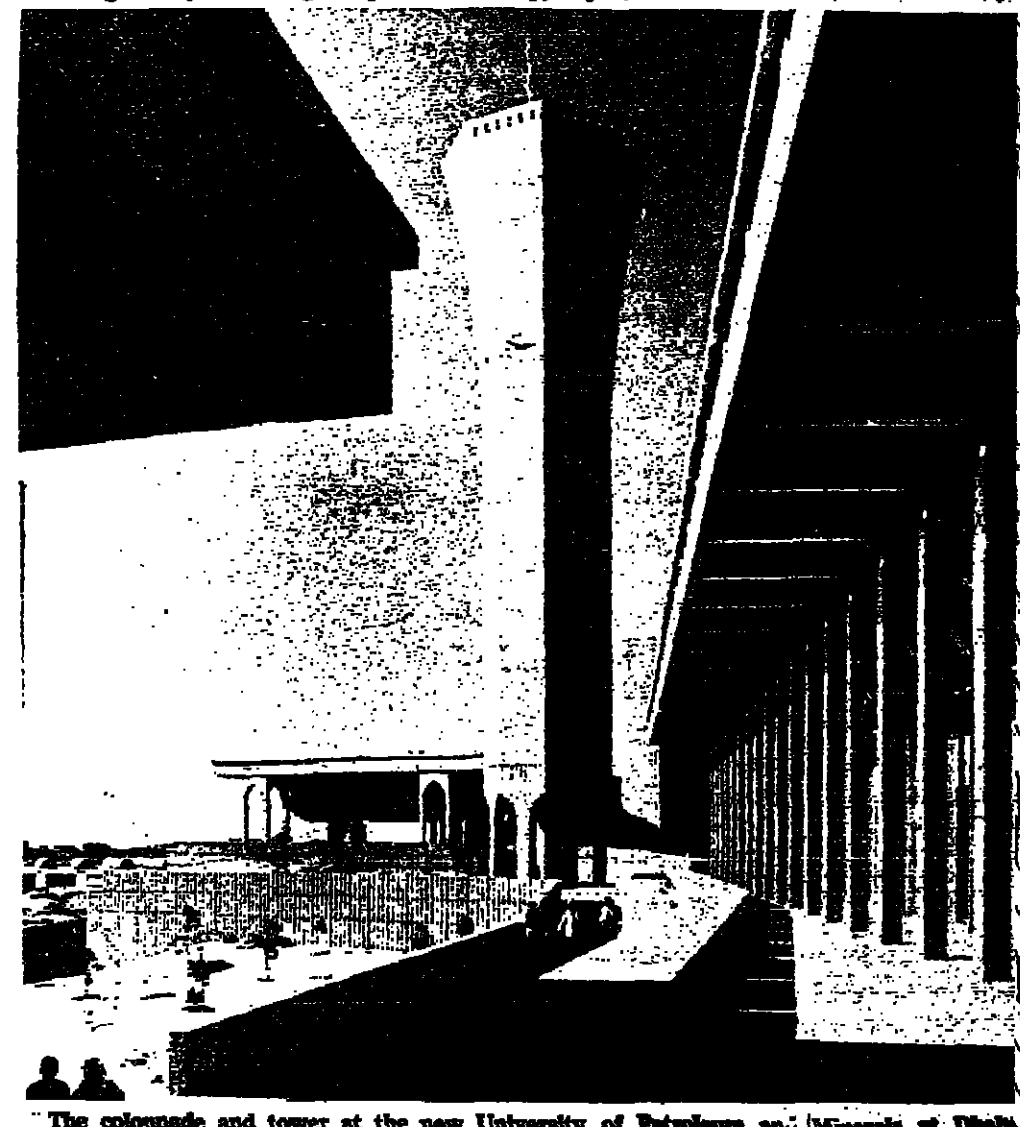
Over the stadium's natural turf there will be an arching, soaring roof of fiberglass-reinforced polyester, resting on a network of steel cables suspended from a giant, Islamic arch some 700 feet high. At the summit, a restaurant will look out over Riyadh's mid-desert setting.

Many designers here that private homes of most challenging and ing work. "You have to have conservation and design — just like Saudi society itself," explains Tarazi. Women have separate entries, meant sometimes, a waste of space, a house where there are three, or more separate cases.

No design is repeated but the variety has not the garishness that marked early days of construction. Some Arabian peninsula, gulf cities.



This architect's model is for a government youth welfare building now under construction in Riyadh. The design is by the Design Supervision Group, Riyadh.



The colonnade and tower at the new University of Petroleum and Minerals at Dhahran.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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ASK OMAR

Q.—Vulnerable, against not, partner opened the bidding with one spade and my right-hand opponent overcalled with two diamonds. I held: ♠AQ7 ♥96 ♦KQ82 ♣J542. What are the merits of a penalty double over some other course, and why?

—J. Cohen, Pittsburgh, Pa.

A.—Penalty doubles of minor-suit contracts at the two-level are considered the safest in bridge—if the opponents make their contract, you won't have doubled them into game. Thus, they can be made fairly freely, but there are still some criteria which should be met by the doubler.

When you double an overall at the two-level, you deny a good fit for partner's suit. There is a sound reason for this—when you have a fit for partner, you may be neutralizing some of your side's defensive assets. Hands where a fit exists are usually better suited to offense than to defense.

On the hand you submit, your holding in the suit partner has opened suggested strongly that he has at least a five-card suit. Your spade holding might, rather than your side scoring only one trick on defense in that suit, so the penalty is likely to prove inadequate compensation for a possible game.

With your hand, rather than double, I would prefer trying for game, perhaps with a bid of two or three no trump. However, switch around my holdings to be major suits, giving me a four-card spade and three hearts to the ace-queen. Here, though I have the same count in high cards, my hand now becomes better defensively and weaker offensively. This time, would certainly double two diamonds, since our chances for game have been reduced.

Q.—In first seat, you hold the following: ♠108752 ♥6 ♦KQ6 ♣AQJ10. What would be your opening bid?

—L. Martin, Bronx, N.Y.

A.—While I would not normally suppress a five-card major suit, the spade suit here is so weak that I would consider it only four-cards long and open one club. If I were to open one spade, I would have no good reason to bid partner make his most likely response of two hearts. There is also a lead consideration: if we end up defending against an opponent's contract, I would much rather have partner lead a club than a spade.

Q.—How would you play this suit combination?

Dummy
AKQ102

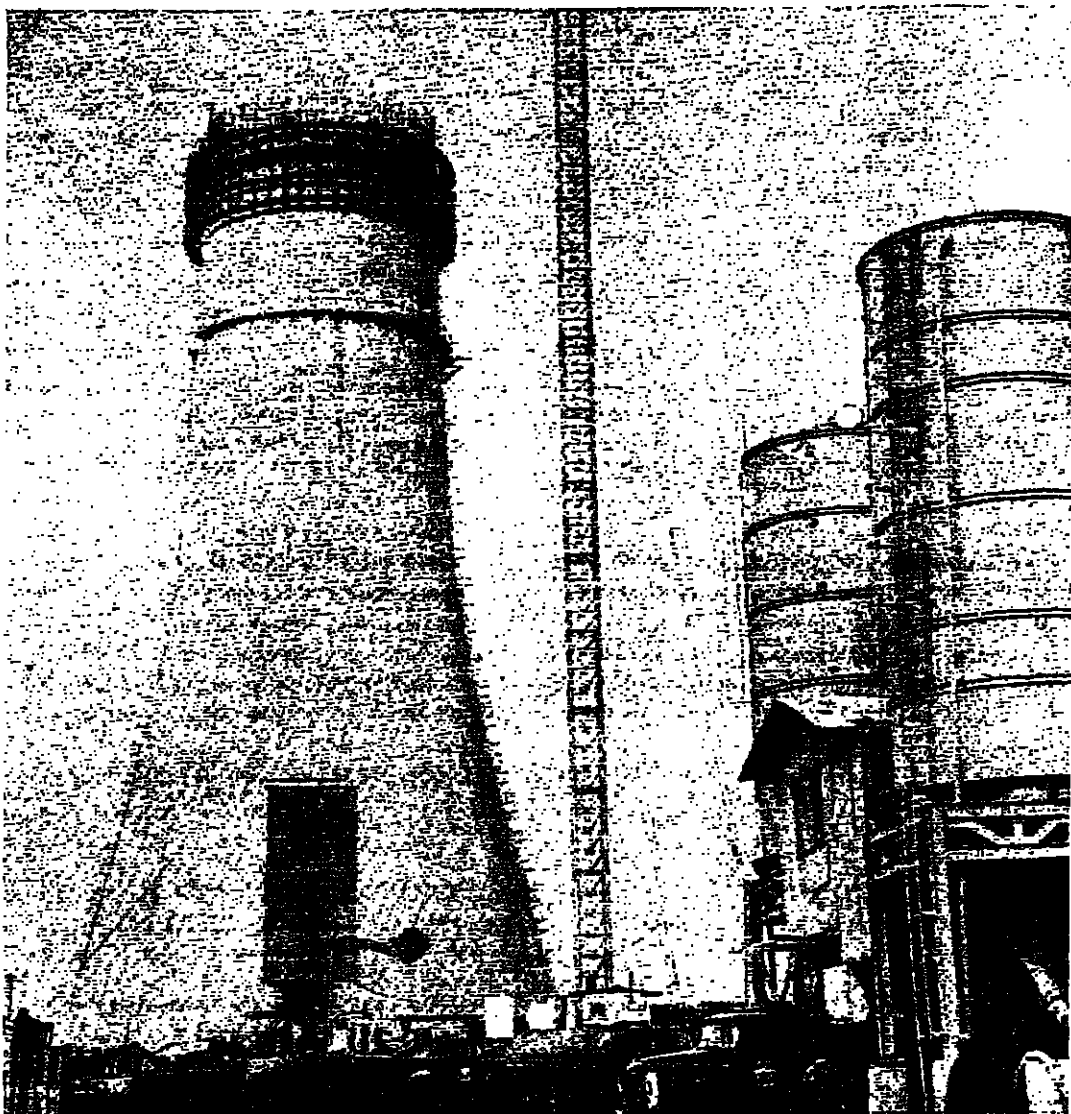
Declarer
73

Declarer needs all five tricks. Entries are no problem.—S. Rascona, Brooklyn, N.Y.

A.—The correct way to play for five tricks is to cash the three top cards, hoping to drop the jack. That gives you about a 52 per cent chance of success.

However, if you need only four tricks in the suit, you should cash one high honor, return to your hand and then finesse the ten. That guarantees four tricks whenever the suit breaks 4-2 or when your left-hand opponent started with five to the jack. That will bring in four tricks 93 per cent of the time.

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



HIGHER THAN THE EIFFEL TOWER -- The construction of one of the most powerful thermo-electric power stations in Bulgaria is now underway. It will have a capacity of 630 megawatts. After the completion of its extension in 1985, this figure will jump to 1,200 megawatts. The station will also be famous for its chimney-stack -- it will not only be the highest one on the Balkan Peninsula, but also in Europe. The chimney-stack will be 325 metres high -- 20 metres higher than the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You have a good chance to complete a project you have been working on for some time. Also, you are able to gain success in other outlets which have been temporarily halted.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can easily formulate plans now that can be carried out with success. Spare time should be spent with good friends.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Know what your finest personal aims are and the best ways to attain them. Plan more time to be with the one you love.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be sure to handle any civic affairs in an adept manner. You can now add to your public prestige through wise actions.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Contact outsiders and gain the support you need. Making new acquaintances now can lead to something good.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Be sure to finish any duties you have promised to do for others. Engage in favorite hobby. Avoid dangerous places.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Attend to tasks which you have postponed in the past. You have to be more exact in the handling of any public work at this time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Show others you are willing to do your share of any work required. Be careful of one who is antagonistic. Be wise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 Nov. 21) Make the right arrangements for the recreation you enjoy. Take needed health treatments. Show more devotion to mate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Study your surroundings and make necessary improvements. Use extreme caution in motion today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Make long-range plans for the future. Handle important communications before engaging in entertainment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Contact a financial expert and get good advice you need. Take time to decide best way to handle routine affairs.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Make plans to have greater abundance in the future. Take time to engage in favorite hobby. Sidestep a troublemaker.

GRAFFITI
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...HALLO!
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I'D LIKE TO RESERVE
A SPACE FOR AN AD IN
THE JORDAN TIMES...

**EACH
EXECUTIVE
BRANCH
HAS
ITS
SAP**

LAUGHS FROM EUROPE

ENGLAND
Jack Clayton

"I hear you have a drinking problem."

THE BETTER HALF By Barnes

"Anyone who wants to help in the yard, snore."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CITOX
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

TOAQU
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

POATIE
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

HYNDIG
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print surprise answer here: □ "□□□□"

Answers tomorrow:
Jumbles: UNWED HONOR PANTRY CANYON
Answer: What the artist's story was—"DRAWN OUT"

TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURE

MOVIE OF THE WEEK:
WHO'S MINDING THE MINT

Cast: Jim Hutton

A U.S. monetary official, having discovered a deficit in his accounts, steals with the help of ex-convicts the U.S. paper money cliché to print the missing sum.

SATURDAY VARIETY SHOW:
FIGURE SKATING EXHIBITION

A one-hour colour competition among world figure skating champions.

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QUICK MEAL
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PEANUTS

THIS IS NOT A BAD LOOKING NEIGHBORHOOD.

I WONDER WHERE I AM...

BONK!

I THINK YOU KILLED HIM, RUBY!

MAYBE NOT...SOMETIMES OLDER PEOPLE TAKE NAPS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY...

THE FLINTSTONES

BUT EVERY TIME I BRING UP THE SUBJECT, HE SAYS "NO!"

JUST DON'T TAKE "NO" FOR AN ANSWER! YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP AFTER YOUR HUSBAND!

I KEPT AFTER FRED TIL HE FINALLY DECIDED TO TEACH ME HOW TO DRIVE

A CRASH-COURSE, NO DOUBT!

MUTT AND JEFF

YOUR WIFE SAID SHE'LL TAKE YOU BACK IF YOU PROMISE NEVER TO BET AGAIN!

OH, BOY!! GREAT! THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!

NO, YOU CAN'T KISS ME UNTIL YOU PROMISE NEVER TO BET ON HORSES AGAIN!

I LOVE, I PROMISE!!

ALL RIGHT, HERE'S EIGHTY DOLLARS—GET RID OF THOSE RACE TRACK CLOTHES AND BUY YOURSELF A NEW OUTFIT BEFORE OUR NEIGHBORS SEE YOU!

JEFF, LOOK! HERE'S A GOOD HORSE IN THE SIXTH RACE!

WORD PUZZLE

22. That man
23. Deep purple
24. Overalls
25. You and I
26. Staff
27. Castle
28. Radical
29. Vegetable
30. Fiddler
31. Soap plant
32. Traveling bag
33. Influence
34. Cosmetic
35. Shower
36. Christians

SOLUTION OF YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

DOWN
1. Dullard
2. Of birds
3. Meager

4. Sea bird
5. Barrel slot
6. Inlet
7. Copy
8. Detail
9. Monster
10. Torpor
11. Sports area
12. Doctrine
13. Seat in church
14. Holland commune
15. Cut
16. Acknowledge
17. Break up
18. Shudder
19. Ballroom dance
20. Bring suit
21. Poe's bird
22. Dirt
23. Spots on Mars
24. Labor Union leader
25. Honey buzzard
26. Quahog
27. Wreath of greeting
28. Literary scraps

France speeds up arms supplies to Zaire

PARIS, March 18 (R). — France is speeding up military supplies to Zaire following urgent requests from the Kinshasa government which charges that mercenaries from nearby Angola have invaded the southern part of its territory.

"The French government has received requests to speed up the dispatch of military supplies now on order," the French Foreign Ministry's spokesman said today. "These mainly involve ammunition to be delivered in the next few days."

French sources said the supplies include rockets.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman denied Paris press reports that France had already sent military advisers, including high-ranking officers, to Kinshasa. "That is simply not true," he said.

The situation in Zaire's Shaba — formerly Katanga — Province is very confused, with little information reaching Paris. "But we do know that the invaders come from Angola," the spokesman said.

They have been reported to be former Katanga gendarmes who fled from the province with their families after the Katangese secession attempt was put down 14 years ago.

Zaire Radio today denied press reports that the industrial towns of Kolwezi and Tshikapa have been besieged by the invading mercenaries.

In a broadcast monitored in Brazzaville, the radio also denied reports quoting diplomatic sources that the Zaire armed forces have suffered heavy casualties.

The official radio reported that the Kinshasa correspondent of the French news agency Agence France Presse was arrested last night and questioned by security forces on suspicion of sending incorrect news about the events in Shaba.

The broadcast said the correspondent would be "taken to Shaba for an on-the-spot investigation of what is happening there before the authorities take the necessary measures in his regard."

Indian elections open 2nd phase

NEW DELHI, March 18 (AFP). — Another 65 constituencies went to the polls in the sixth Indian parliamentary elections today and first reports said polling was fair to heavy and free from serious incidents.

A total of 300 million voters in the north Indian states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and Nagaland, in the northeast, were involved in today's balloting.

In the first phase of the election on Wednesday last 352 constituencies with an electorate of 190 million took part. Polling in the rest of the 542 constituencies, except two where candidates have been returned unopposed are to be held tomorrow and on Sunday.

First results are expected to be known by the same evening.

The Election Commission, meanwhile, today ordered a re-poll in 23 more constituencies — 22 in West Bengal and one in Kashmir due to electoral malpractices, including stuffing of ballot boxes and attacks on officials.

Yesterday the commission had ordered a re-poll, for the same reasons, in 18 stations in the states of Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. They included polling booths in the constituency of Amethi, where Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi's controversial son, Sanjay, was a candidate for the ruling Congress Party.

Opposition Janata Party leader and veteran politician Jayaprakash Narayan, in a message to the people, today appealed to all to maintain peace and self-restraint throughout the counting and declaration of results to "prevent any mischief by agents provocateurs."

The response of the winning Janata candidates and their supporters should be one of humility and should take the form of prayer for the God of the country, he added.

He also thanked the people for the "exemplary sense of discipline" shown at the polling so far.

A spokesman for the Janata

Party said that elected party members would take their oath jointly at Mahatma Gandhi's "samadhi" (grave) on Wednesday next.

The spokesman said the members would also meet the same day to elect their parliamentary leader.

Winding up her election tour today in areas where polling is due only on Sunday, Mrs. Gandhi reiterated that the aim of the Congress was only to remove poverty and bring prosperity to rural India.

She also criticised the oppo-

sition for spreading rumors and indulging in violence and indiscipline.

The pro-Moscow Communist Party of India (CPI) week "New Age" in a front-page article today strongly denounced Mrs. Gandhi for her failure to check the extra-constitutional authority headed by her son Sanjay. The article, written by CPT's Politburo member, Mol Sen, warned Mrs. Gandhi that the CPI would continue the fight against this authority of the "ramified machinery" had built up — during the emergency.

Callaghan to face vote of "no confidence" next week

LONDON, March 18 (Agencies). — Britain's Labour government will face a vote of no-confidence in the House of Commons next Wednesday, parliament was told today.

The government, which is in a minority position in parliament, last night suffered another in a series of recent defeats on procedural motions which has stalled its legislation programme.

Opposition Conservative leader Margaret Thatcher this morning tabled a motion "that this House has no confidence in Her Majesty's government" and the government's parliamentary business manager, Mr. Michael Foot, set the vote for Wednesday.

If the government loses, then constitutional precedent would call upon it to resign and a general election would probably follow.

But the question was immediately raised whether the different opposition groups would be able to unite against Prime Minister James Callaghan. Labour can command 314 seats. The combined opposition have 315, but these comprise small

groups who may not all unite with the 278 Conservatives against the government.

The Conservatives, however, appeared assured of the support of the Scottish and Welsh Nationalists, unwilling to give the Labour government a changing target devotion to give Scotland and Wales greater autonomy including locally-elected assemblies.

But the attitude of the Liberal Party and the Ulster Unionist M.P.s, representing Northern Ireland, including former Conservative minister Enoch Powell, was less certain.

The Liberals, still not fully recovered from their leadership crisis following the resignation of Mr. Jeremy Thorpe, knew that they could face serious losses at the next elections.

The Ulster Unionists, although unhappy with the security policy in Northern Ireland, say they are indifferent to the political hue of the government in Westminster.

Mr. Callaghan, maintaining a calm front, was absent from the Commons this morning because of his normal duties as premier. From the opposition benches in parliament, there were angry shouts of "who is he?" where is he?"

Last night's vote, which ended the new crisis for the government, highlighted how precarious Mr. Callaghan's position is in the present parliament.

Several Labour members were sick and a large portion of the opposition mounted a challenge against the administration's plans for cuts in spending resulting from last month's negotiations for a \$1 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Instead of allowing debate which would push the plans further ahead, the opposition submitted a motion to adjourn the House for the night.

Labour members did not vote on the motion. Facing jubilation from their opponents, they sat still in their seats as the motion was carried by 261 to nil.

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

10 million Italians strike against government anti-inflation plans

ROME, March 18 (R). — Ten million Italians went on strike today against government anti-inflation plans, but the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has told the government to stick to unpopular proposals to curb labour costs.

Official sources said the IMF told the government that if it wants the \$530 million loan it has requested, it must hold inflation to 10 per cent or less next year.

Prices rose in Italy by 21.8 per cent in 1976. The target for this year is 16 per cent.

Today's strikes ranged from four to 24 hours. They did not affect Rome because of a ban on public demonstrations imposed after student riots last weekend. Instead, Rome workers will strike next Wednesday.

A letter of intent drawn up by an IMF negotiating team

for the Italian government to sign also demanded stringent controls of public expenditure, credit expansion and the Treasury deficit, the sources said.

The government's proposals to reduce labour costs include a virtual ban on individual company pay rises above nationally-negotiated rates.

It also plans to stop taking into account the effects of indirect taxation — purchase tax — when calculating three-monthly pay rises indexed to the cost of living.

Besides protesting against these plans, the strikers demand specific government commitments to boost investment in the impoverished south.

If the loan is granted it will be paid in three stages at six-month intervals starting on Aug. 1 this year, the sources said. Between each payment there would be a review of the government's success in sticking to agreed economic policies.

Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti met his economic ministers yesterday to discuss the IMF demands.

Next Monday Signor Andreotti plans to meet leaders of the parties which keep his minority Christian Democrat government in office by abstaining in parliament, including the powerful Communist Party. Later this week he is to meet trade union leaders.

If rich countries give an extra bit of aid...

WASHINGTON, March 18 (AFP). — If the rich countries gave an extra \$12,000 to \$15,000 million aid per year, the food needs of the poorest countries in the world could be satisfied by the year 2000, the president of the Overseas Development Council said here.

Aid to the poorest countries in 1976 reached \$17,000 million, said Father Theodore Hesburgh. The United States could easily double its aid, at the moment set at \$4,000 million a year, and Communist states could increase their contributions.

About 1,000 million people live in the poorest countries where the revenue per head of population is less than \$200 a year.

Father Hesburgh said that the United States gave half its total aid to four countries — Israel, Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

The Overseas Development Council is a non-profit making organisation devoted to the problems of the developing countries.

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BANK OF ENGLAND CUTS RATE

LONDON, March 18 (R). — The Bank of England today cut its minimum lending rate (MLR) by half a per cent to 10.5 per cent, responding to the downward trend in short-term interest rates.

In making the cut, it resisted money market pressures for a reduction of a full percentage point.

The Bank of England has been trying to prevent interest rates from falling too sharply.

Foreign investors have this week continued to pour funds into London to buy government securities.

Bankers estimated that the Bank of England has purchased some \$1 billion in exchange for sterling so far this month to steady the currency at just under \$1.72 in face of the continued build-up of foreign funds in London.

Today's reduction in MLR follows a 1 per cent cut a week ago. The rate has now been cut nine times since the 15 per cent record level set at the height of the sterling crisis last October.

OECD predicts Britain will yet see balance of payments surplus

PARIS, March 18 (R). — Despite Britain's bleak year with rising unemployment, double-figure inflation and sharply declining household incomes — but better days are drawing nearer.

This is the message of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the industrial world's major economic forecasting unit, in its annual report on Britain published here today.

The OECD sees North Sea oil as Britain's saviour. It reckons the impact of the oil bonanza on the country's balance of payments will be so great that Britain could eventually have a balance of payments surplus problem.

"There could come a point at which too large a surplus, consequent upon slow growth, could bring along with it problems of its own," the OECD

experts warn.

A balance of payments surplus would make London more attractive as a financial centre, encourage big capital inflows and push up the value of the pound. This would make British exports more expensive and less competitive abroad and, in turn, discourage investment.

"The short-run outlook is for a further period of slow growth, declines in real dis-

posable income and increases in unemployment," the report says.

It predicts a 3 per cent rise in consumer prices in 1977, and into the early 1980s suggests that the prospects over the medium-term could be markedly better," the OECD predicts.

The contribution of North Sea oil to the balance of payments could reach \$8.5 billion in 1980, the report says.

Morning gold fixing tops \$150 per oz

LONDON, March 18 (R). — The price of gold rose above \$150 an ounce on the world's main bullion markets in London and Zurich today for the first time since September, 1975.

At the morning fix in London — when leading bullion houses establish a guide-line price for

world markets — gold was quoted at \$150.25 — up by \$1.35 from the previous afternoon.

Zurich dealers said there were no special new factors in the market, but trading was active with gold holding steady at opening levels.

Market analysts in London said there were several reasons for the rise in gold over the past few months, including the market's success in absorbing sales by China and the Soviet Union, as well as the regular auctions of International Monetary Fund (IMF) gold started last June.

Gold was being strengthened by rising demand for other metals, increased industrial demand, and extensive purchases for use in jewellery in the Middle East.

The gold price reached almost \$200 an ounce at its peak at the end of 1974, when investors saw the metal as a refuge at a time of world-wide economic uncertainty.

But thereafter gold went into decline. Its fall was speeded by the first of the IMF auctions, to finance a trust fund for the poorest developing countries.

At the third IMF sale last September, gold realised an average price of only \$109.40 an ounce. Later IMF sales have been on a rising market.

Gold began to regain its investment attractions in last autumn's exchange market upheavals and on fears of a new bout of inflation as industrial economies recovered from recession.

Israeli attack on PLO silenced at United Nations' water meet

MAR DEL PLATA, Argentina, March 18 (R). — Aggressive protests from Arab and African delegates forced the Israeli delegate to cut short a speech in a turbulent and politically-charged session of the United Nations Water Conference here last night.

Ambassador Moshe Erel was "objecting" to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) being allowed to address the conference, staged to discuss ways of averting the threat of a world water shortage.

He was allowed the rostrum to claim that the PLO's "declared purpose is to destroy a U.N. member state and its methods include murder."

But a wave of hand-clapping by Arab and African delegates and repeated calls of "Mr. delegate, Mr. Delegate," from conference Chairman Luis Jaurregui forced him to stand down.

PLO delegate Salah Zawawi then delivered his scheduled 15-minute address in which he co-

ndemned Zionism as "the most ruthless form of racial discrimination and human oppression."

The session also saw a scathing attack by Panama on the U.S. for its "usurpation" of water resources at the Panama Canal.

Panamanian delegate Ovidio Herrera described the Panama Canal issue as a case of "waters usurped by a foreign nation."

U.S. delegate Mrs. Nancy Rawls turned down an idea of dealing with the dispute at the conference.

Scheel ready to work for release of Hess

BONN, March 18 (R). — West German President Walter Scheel is prepared to try to secure the release of Hitler's former Deputy Rudolf Hess from Spain.

Indian scientists announce 6th satellite of Uranus discovered

NEW DELHI, March 18 (AFP). — Two Indian scientists have discovered an unknown satellite of the planet Uranus, it was officially announced here yesterday.

The scientists, Dr. J. C. Bhatnagary and Dr. S. K. Kuppuswamy, at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics in Bangalore, south India, discovered the satellite at the Institute's Kavalur Observatory, the announcement said.

The announcement said that the new satellite is about 30 kms. in diameter and is the "inner-most satellite" to Uranus.

Uranus is already known to have five satellites, Titania, Oberon, Ariel, Umbriel and Miranda. The last was discovered on Feb. 16, 1948, by an American astronomer, Dr. G. P. Kuiper.

No name has yet been given to the sixth satellite which, the announcement said, has an orbital period of about 10 hours.

The new-found satellite of Uranus, the announcement said, is too faint to be seen with a present day telescope. It may be a good object "for observation by future fly-by missions to Uranus," the announcement said.

The astronomers detected the satellite "from the sudden diminution that it caused in the light of a star that was expected to be occulted by Uranus sometime later," the announcement said.

Close contest expected in Sunday's run-offs for French municipal polls

By Fabien Lacombe

PARIS, March 18 (AFP). — Run-offs in the French municipal elections this Sunday promise to be closely contested between the governing coalition and the opposition alliance of Communists and Socialists.

In Paris, tension has subsided within the ruling coalition, which groups the Gaullist Party headed by former Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and followers of President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's Independent Republican Party.

Mr. Chirac, 45, appeared assured of becoming mayor of the capital and using the office as a rallying point to launch the campaign for parliamentary elections due in one year.

The parliamentary vote cou-

ld alter the future of the Fifth Republic founded by Gen. Charles de Gaulle in 1958 by giving the leftist coalition a majority in the National Assembly (lower house).

In last Sunday's first round of municipal balloting — widely considered a dress rehearsal for the parliamentary vote — the opposition alliance scored gains throughout provincial France, winning a majority of the total vote cast.

The Socialist party has estimated that two-thirds of towns with more than 30,000 residents appeared likely to be carried by the left, giving the opposition alliance control of 154 urban areas, up from 91 currently.

Last Sunday's polling marked the left's steadily improving performance in nationwide vot-

es since it adopted its common programme of government 1972.

In the 1973 legislative elections, the left won 46.3 per cent, while it carried 49.3 per cent in the 1974 presidential contest and more than 50 per cent in both cantonal elections last year and in last week's voting for municipal council.

But the left fared less well in Paris, where Mr. Chirac claimed credit for halting its advance. Mr. Chirac's entry in the Paris race amounted to test of strength with President Giscard d'Estaing. Since the first round of voting, however, both Mr. Chirac and the government have moved to bring campaign wounds by announcing joint lists in each of the capital's districts where run-offs will be held.

Carter warns of racial strife in Southern Africa

UNITED NATIONS, March 18 (R). — President Carter said last night that a "gathering racial conflict" threatened Southern Africa and that new tensions were rising in the northeastern part of the continent — the Horn of Africa.

In a Foreign Policy address prepared for delivery to U.N. representatives in the General Assembly hall, he pledged that the United States would work to help attain majority rule in Southern Africa by peaceful means.

Without naming Rhodesia, South African-ruled Namibia (South West Africa) or South Africa itself, he said: "We believe that such fundamental transformation can be achieved, to the advantage of both blacks and whites."

"Anything less than that may bring a protracted racial war, with devastating consequences for all."

Earlier, Mr. Carter said: "A gathering racial conflict threatens Southern Africa. New tensions are rising in the Horn of Africa," he added, referring to a region which includes Ethiopia and some of its neighbors.

The president also underlined that the U.S. congress took

action a few days ago to institute a ban on the import of chrome from Rhodesia.

"This week the government of the United States took action to bring our country into full compliance with United Nations sanctions against the illegal regime in Rhodesia," he stated.

Referring to an area where big power rivalry, especially in the naval field, has increased in recent years, he said: "We will also seek to establish Soviet willingness to reach a settlement with us on mutual restraint in the Indian Ocean as well as on such matters as arms export to troubled areas of the world."

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market Friday was generally easier in reaction to the announced Conservative opposition Party decision to move a motion of "no confidence" in the government, dealers said.

Closing levels were above the day's lows after the February retail price index which showed a smaller rise than expected. The minimum lending rate reduction to 10 1/2 per cent from 11 was fully discounted, dealers added.

Government bonds ended about 1/8 easier among shorter maturities while longer loans were mixed by up to 1/4 point. The terms of the new 800 mln stg 12-1/4 per cent 1982 loan is likely to cause a fall when trading resumes at 16:15, dealers said.

Equity leaders averaged net falls of 2p to 6p, but B.P. was 16p down still in reaction to results announced Thursday. Cavenham firmed 3p following increased earnings.

Gold shares advanced by up to 50p in response to the higher bullion price. Dollar stocks and Canadians gained narrowly.

Price of gold closed in London Friday at \$150.05/oz.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

* BEIRUT, March 18 (AFP). — Saudi Arabia today handed over to Lebanon \$50 million to help settle social problems. The cheque was presented to Premier Salim Al Hoss by the Saudi Arabian Ambassador, Ali Al Chahr.

* HONG KONG, March 18 (AFP). — An official Egyptian trade delegation arrived in Peking yesterday by air, the New China News Agency reported today. The delegation, headed by the first Under Secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Supply, Saleh Ibrahim, was met at the airport by Chinese Foreign Trade Vice Minister Chen Chieh.

* NICOSIA, March 18 (R). — Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot trade union leaders hugged and kissed each other here today when they met for the first time since the Turkish military intervention of July 1974. The five unionists from each side were meeting for a two-day conference in United Nations territory on the "green line" which divides this city. Mr. Otto Kersten, the Secretary General of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), who organised the meeting stressed that the conference would not discuss political or constitutional matters.

* KUWAIT, March 18 (R). — North Yemen is to obtain a loan of nine million Kuwait dinars (£18 million) from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. The loan is to be provided at 4 per cent annual interest under an agreement signed here last night with the Kuwait-based pan-Arab fund. It will be used to help finance a 60-megawatt power station near the North Yemeni Port of Hudeidah and will be repaid over 15 years after five years of grace, officials said.

* WASHINGTON, March 18 (AFP). — A new sweetener called Dihydrochalcone Nechesperidine obtained from grapefruit peel, has been announced by the Department of Agriculture. The sweetener is 1,500 times "more sugary" than sugar, although it comes from a very bitter substance in the peel, called naringine, the department said. Two U.S. firms are preparing to make the sweetener for use in chewing gum, toothpaste and mouth rinses.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

* TRIPOLI, March 18 (R). — Heads of Arab and African news agencies will meet in Tripoli later this month to discuss improved cooperation and ways of widening the distribution of their output. Libya's Arab Revolution News Agency (ARNA) reported yesterday. All directors of Arab and African agencies have been invited to the conference, from March 26 to 31. Some 200 other participants are also expected, including representatives of major world information media, who will attend as observers. The meeting is sponsored by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the Arab League and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

* MOSCOW, March 18 (R). — The Soviet Union today issued an angry denial of allegations that human rights were violated in this country and accused the West of waging "foul slander campaigns" on the issue. Pravda, the main Communist Party daily, said in a long article that the individual's political rights and freedoms in the Soviet Union were restricted by only one demand — that they should not damage the rights of others or of society as a whole.

* HANOI, March 18 (AFP). — The press here today continued to remain silent on the activities of an American presidential commission headed by Mr. Leonard Woodcock which arrived here Wednesday.

* TEL AVIV, March 18 (R). — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher left here today after two days of talks with Israeli leaders and flew to Madrid with Israeli Minister of Tourism Moshe Kohn. They are going to attend a meeting of the Liberal International, of which Mr. Kohn is vice president.

* WASHINGTON, March 18 (R). — Mr. James Earl Ray, the convicted killer of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, will be questioned in jail next week by Congressional investigators, according to a U.S. Congressman. Mr. Ray, who is serving a 99-year prison sentence for killing Dr. King outside a motel in Memphis, Tennessee in 1968, will be interviewed by staffers attached to a Congressional committee investigating the murder, Congressman Walter Fauntroy said.

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TREASURE HOUSE
THIRD FLOOR
JABAL AMMAN
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bedsheets, blankets and
CANNON bedcovers.